

Filed for intro on 05/22/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1098

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to recognize Master Trooper Jerry Ferrell of the Tennessee Highway Patrol on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Ferrell is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for nearly thirty years as a Trooper with the Tennessee Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Master Trooper Jerry Ferrell is an active and important part of his community and his profession, benefiting both in numerous ways; the State of Tennessee is undoubtedly a safer and better place to live due to his honorable and gallant service; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 1973, Jerry Ferrell, a resident of Smithville, began his meritorious service as a State Trooper; his first duty station was in Henry County, where he served from 1973 until 1975; and

WHEREAS, quickly earning an unsurpassed reputation for professionalism, he was assigned to Governor Blanton's security detail for six months in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Ferrell was next selected for the elite Tactical Squad, now renamed Special Operations, and received special S.W.A.T. training at the FBI Academy; he was trained

as a bomb technician, specializing in dismantling bombs and destroying explosive materials; this tour of duty lasted from 1976 until 1978, when he returned to Governor Blanton's security detail for three months; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the Governor's administration, Trooper Ferrell returned to patrol duties in Davidson County and serviced there from 1978 until 1980; he returned to the Governor's security detail in 1980 and served Governor Lamar Alexander from 1980 until 1984; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, this courageous Tennessean once again returned to patrol duties, and was assigned to Williamson County, where he established his present residence in Fairview; and

WHEREAS, this incomparable officer was recruited in 1996 to join the Tennessee Highway Patrol Criminal Interdiction Unit for the Third District of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, because of his demonstrated skill in making criminal cases from traffic stops; and

WHEREAS, he thus embarked on an exceptional and distinguished tenure with the Unit; unit records indicate that Trooper Ferrell has seized approximately 2,500 pounds of marijuana worth three million dollars and 150 pounds of cocaine worth seven million dollars during his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, he holds the record for the greatest amount of money seized by a single officer in the history of the Patrol with over one million dollars in cash seizures, including a single seizure of \$420,000 on April 5, 2002; and

WHEREAS, he continued to serve the people of Tennessee at the highest level of professionalism until his retirement, making a 50-pound marijuana bust on May 16, 2002, just two weeks before his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Ferrell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and have earned Tennessee honor as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Trooper Ferrell demonstrated remarkable ability as a law enforcement officer and won the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers, superiors and the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Master Trooper Jerry Ferrell our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, salute his honorable and gallant service to the Tennessee Highway Patrol and this State, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.